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ABSTRACT

"The Goldfinch" introduces young children to various facets of Iowa history. Each issue has a specific topic, and a number of articles covering different aspects of the topic being addressed. This particular issue focuses on horses. Featured articles discuss historical uses of horses, an Iowa child who owns a quarter horse, show horses, and horses in Amish families. A variety of photographs of horses illustrate this issue. Additional activities include a crossword puzzle, a history mystery, and a story. (RH)

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Hay Days:
The Horse in Iowa History.

Millie K. Frese, Ed.

The Goldfinch: Iowa History for Young People
Volume 19 Number 4 Summer 1998

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THE Goldfinch

Iowa History for Young People

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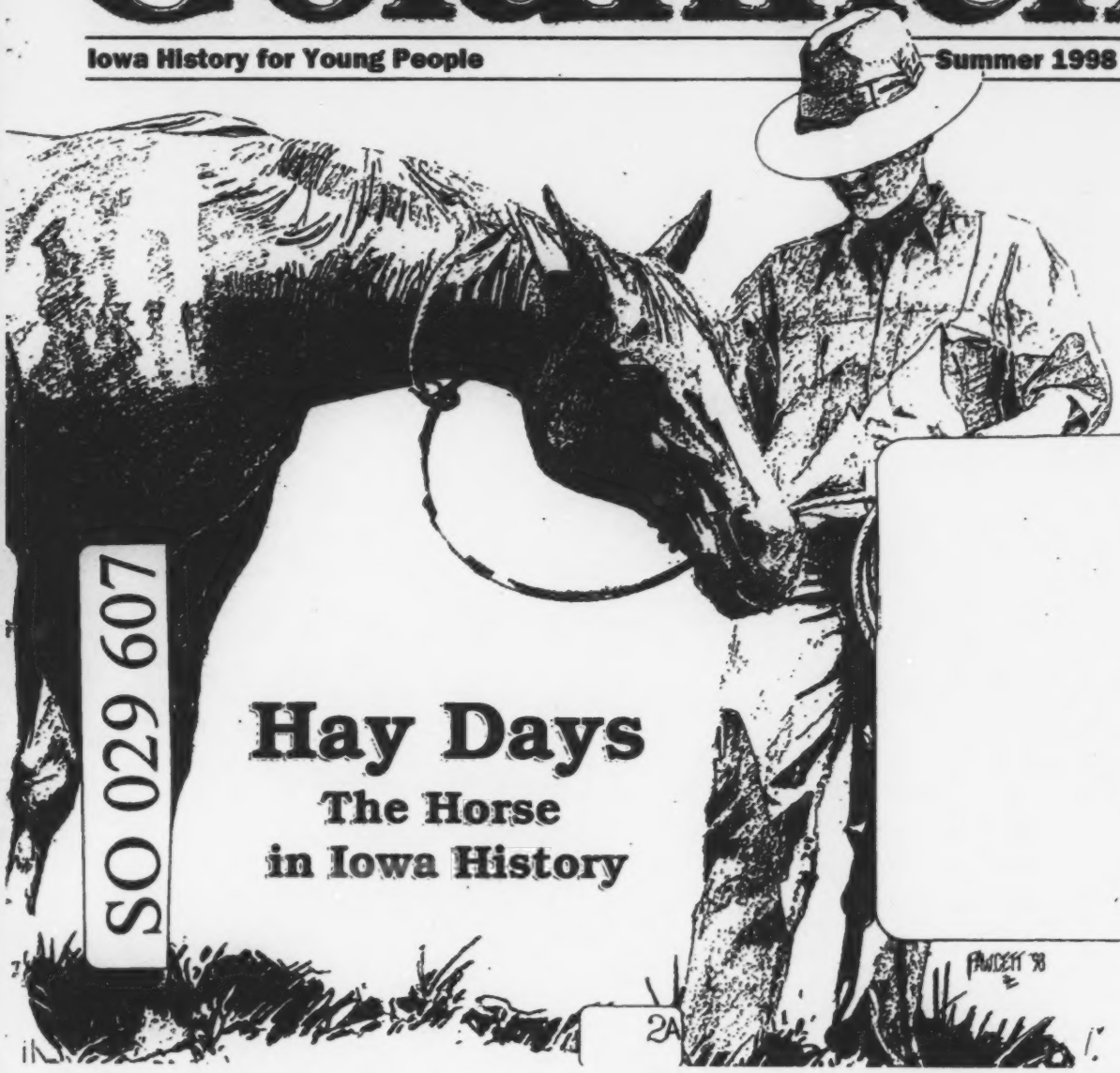

Hay Days

The Horse in Iowa History

SO 029 607

On the Cover

John Fawcett

Learning the Ropes

"I want to make the viewer smell the horse, hear the hoofbeats, have all their senses taken in by the painting."

Cover artist John Fawcett has been drawing and painting since he was a kid growing up in Cedar Rapids, Iowa–but he never thought art would become his career. Instead, his love of animals (especially his horses, Cocoa and Sadie) led him to the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine. He earned his degree, then worked as a veterinarian in Pennsylvania for almost 20 years. In 1996, he sold his practice to follow a dream and has been painting full time ever since.

"I knew that to do either one really well would require a sacrifice," Fawcett said. "It's very important for me to paint as much as possible."

Fawcett, who usually works with watercolors, pours his heart into each painting. Knowledge of animal anatomy he gained as a vet helps bring to life the horses and dogs he paints. For the pencil drawing featured on this issue's cover, Fawcett drew one of his own Quarter Horses with a 14-year-old boy who is a family friend. "I have used him as a model before, particularly for the title piece of *My Friend Flicka*," Fawcett said. He recently illustrated a new version of that classic novel, published by MacMillan McGraw-Hill as a student textbook.

Do you, like Fawcett, love horses? Dream about them? Do you have a horse–or wish you did? Then this issue of *The Goldfinch* is for YOU!

–The Editor

The Goldfinch

Volume 19, Number 4 • Summer 1998

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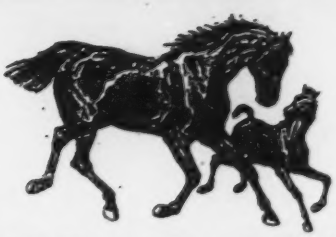
Visit the exhibit!



HAY DAYS:

The Horse In Iowa History

Iowa Historical Building
600 East Locust Street, Des Moines, Iowa
April 11, 1998 – April 1, 2001

Blue-bordered pages in ***The Goldfinch*** highlight museum exhibits!

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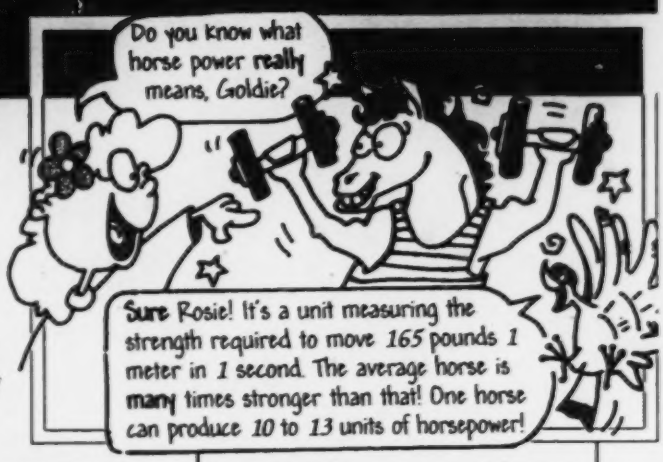
Horse Power!


Do you know what horse power really means, Goldie?
Sure Rosie! It's a unit measuring the strength required to move 165 pounds 1 meter in 1 second. The average horse is many times stronger than that! One horse can produce 10 to 13 units of horsepower!

From pioneer days to the automobile age, horses touched the lives of most Iowans in countless ways. In fact, no animal has been more involved in human endeavors than the horse. Since the late 1600s, people who have lived in what we call Iowa have used horses in hunting, farming, warfare, recreation, and transportation. Part work animal and part beloved pet, the versatile horse is a significant part of Iowa's history and remains important to many Iowans today.

Fossils!

Fossil evidence, including Pleistocene era (Ice Age) molars found in Iowa, proves that horses roamed here before people inhabited the area. The Pleistocene horse mysteriously became extinct about ten thousand years ago.

In 1519, the Spanish conquistador Hernan Cortes reintroduced horses to the Americas. Although vastly outnumbered by native people, Cortes used their fear of horses to great advantage. In their chronicles of New World conquests, Spanish conquistadors commonly wrote phrases such as: "After God, we owe the victory to the horses."

An assortment of fly nets and collars greet customers at Emil Jacobsen's harness shop in Thornton, around 1922. Fly nets helped keep pesky insects away, saving horses from agonizing bites. Horse collars revolutionized agriculture and transportation by allowing horses to pull as much as oxen without choking.

Beast of Burden

SHSI (Iowa City)

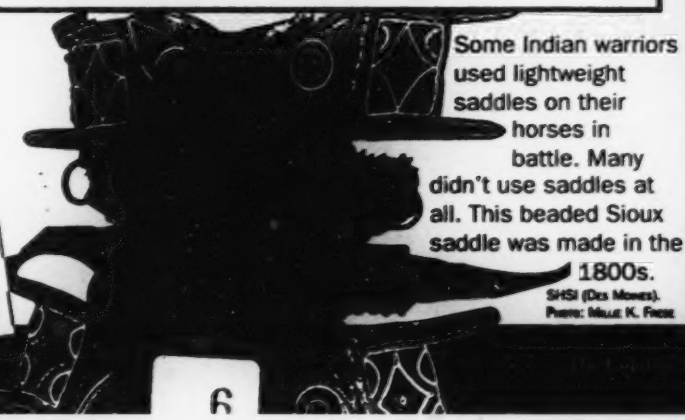
Two boys pose on their ponies in front of traditional structures at the Mesquakie settlement near Tama in the early 1900s. Horses were an important part of Mesquakie culture. Mesquakie craftsmen carved horse figures on knife handles and musical instruments. Horse hair tassels decorated handmade pipe stems. For the Mesquakie and other tribes of this region, the horse became a symbol of status, wealth, and prestige during the 1800s.

American Indians

Even though the colonial Spanish banned Indian ownership of horses, American Indians acquired the animals through raids, rebellion, and capturing wild horses. Within two hundred years, horses flourished all the way to the Great Plains. They had a major impact on many American Indian cultures.

Horses became symbols of wealth, objects of trade, and a source of conflict between tribes. American Indians increasingly departed from traditional agricultural pursuits. They took to hunting buffalo on horseback and developed superior **equestrian** skills, as noted by the early western explorers Lewis and Clark. The Indians' enhanced mobility on horseback made them more difficult for American soldiers to defeat.

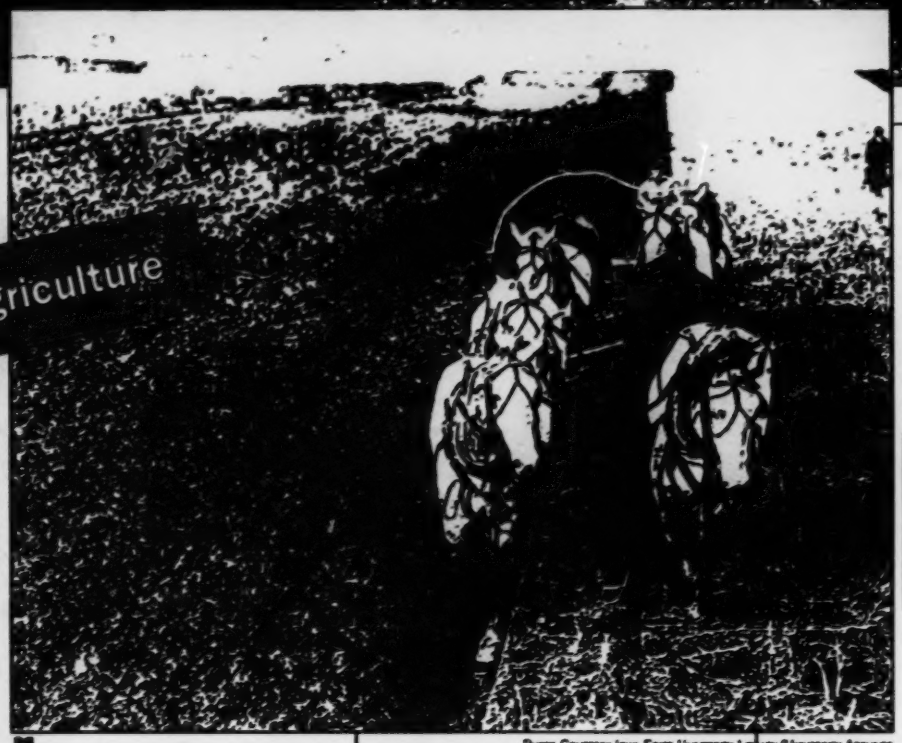
e•ques•tri•an *adj*- of or pertaining to horses or horsemanship.



Some Indian warriors used lightweight saddles on their horses in battle. Many didn't use saddles at all. This beaded Sioux saddle was made in the 1800s.

SHSI (Des Moines). Photo: Millie K. Frese

Beast of Burden



Percherons pull a plow on an Iowa farm. Farmers admired this draft horse breed for its strength, alertness and reliability.

per•che•ron *n-* a breed of powerful, rugged draft horses, usually dapple-gray or black.

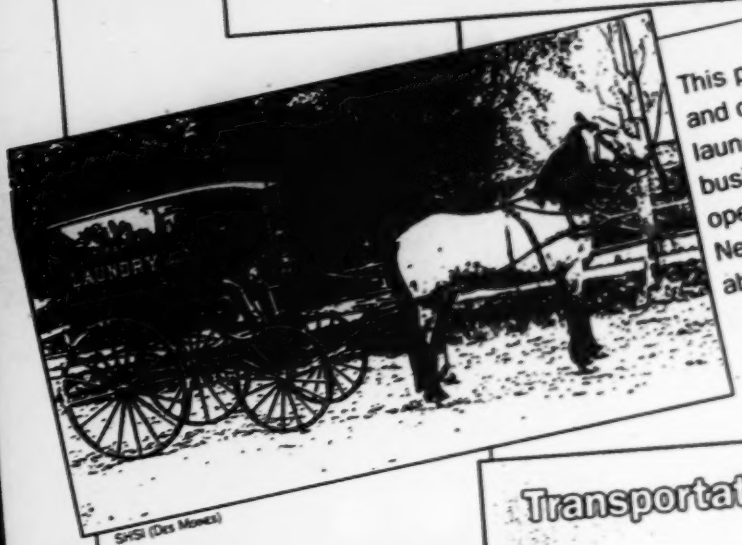
Photo Courtesy Iowa State University Library/University Archives

Iowa's first farmers relied on horsepower to run farm machinery. By 1900, Iowa ranked second nationwide in the number of horses owned and first in their collective value. Iowa's agricultural prosperity during this time arose in part from its leadership role in developing a ready supply of strong, steady, and durable draft horse breeds.

A number of Iowans became the nation's leading importers of draft horses and propagated the most popular European breeds–Percherons, Belgians, and Clydesdales. Horsebreeding, a profitable specialty, thrived in Iowa because of the state's fertile soil, hospitable climate, and proximity to Chicago, the world's leading livestock exchange.

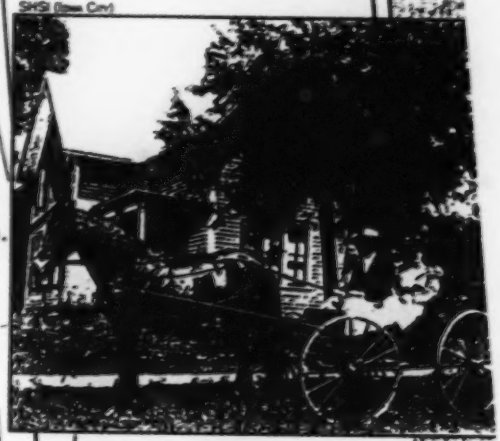
Tractors became popular in the 1920s, but it wasn't until after World War II that machines replaced draft horses on most Iowa farms. By the 1950s, the draft horse population declined sharply. For many farmers, horses were more than beasts of burden. They were companions. Leaving behind the old ways meant saying goodbye to part of the family.

Until automobiles and trucks emerged, horses pulled wagons, stagecoaches, and other vehicles for a variety of business and personal travels.



SHSI (Des Moines)

This pick-up and delivery laundry business operated in Nevada about 1900.



SHSI (Iowa City)

A.P. Nettie and Mary Cooper of Wyoming, Iowa, climb aboard for a buggy ride in 1898, pulled by their horse, Callie.

Transportation

SHSI (Iowa City)

This crew, with ice tongs clipped to their work clothes, poses between deliveries. The horses wear fly nets which swoosh as they move. This brushes away pesky insects, protecting horses from painful bites.

We went in a sled on a cold night to church in Lisbon for a Christmas program. My dad put straw in the bed of the bobsled and covered the straw with blankets. We sat on the blankets and he covered us with horse blankets. When we got to the church he put the horse blankets on the horses. When we went home, the blankets were warm from the horses and we were tucked in again. I was about six years old...

Carmen Kamberling, 83
Mt. Vernon, Iowa

Changing Times

Photo Courtesy Dick Kohl

Ralph (Dick) Kohl planted corn on his rural Mechanicsville farm with a team of horses until 1970.

Born on a Linn County farm in 1916, Dick Kohl grew up in a time of transition. A time when tractors took the place of a farmer's team in the fields, and automobiles took their places on country roads.

"Dad had a tractor when I was little but we still depended on horses for field work," Kohl recalled. "They sold a lot of tractors to people around here in '36 and '37. Farmers bought something that would replace about four horses," he said. For a time, many farmers kept a team to plant corn and sow oats, using tractors to plow and disk. "We were too sentimental to give it all up," Kohl said. He **checked** in corn with a horse-drawn planter until 1970 when he sold his last team–decades after most farmers put down the reins.

Neighbors and sight-seers often paused to watch Kohl in the field with his team. Some

A wire passing through the planter caused several kernels of seed to be "checked" or dropped about every 40 inches.

Kohl's horse-drawn corn planter

thought he used the old horse-drawn corn planter because he couldn't afford modern equipment. Others watched with curiosity as Kohl hitched up his team every spring, catching a glimpse of farming from an earlier time.

"Truth is, I kept planting with horses just because I liked to use them," Kohl said. "There is a lot of satisfaction in driving a team. We weren't in a big hurry. We did what the horses could stand in a day then went in."

It took Kohl three or four days to plant 60 acres of corn. Sometimes he'd plant an additional 60 acres for a neighbor. The old planter made a loud *ping* as it dropped seed into the ground at evenly spaced intervals. Surrounded by rolling fields and endless sky, Kohl listened to the rhythmic thumping of horse hooves on freshly plowed earth and had plenty of time to think.

"It was a good way of life," Kohl said. "Not so much a business." Once a neighboring farmer encouraged Kohl to get more land and plant more corn to make more money. "I told him, 'I had breakfast and I had dinner this noon and I have enough left over for supper. How much better can you live? How much more do you need?'"

The neighboring farmer eventually went broke. Kohl didn't.

"A lot of farmers got greedy," Kohl said. "They went into debt buying expensive equipment and farms so big that they had to run tractors day and night. They tore out all the fences, planted it all in crops, wore out the soil and let all the buildings run down. The way I farmed wasn't hard on your nerves like farming can be today." Kohl saved some of his own grain from each harvest for the next year's seed, spread manure from his livestock on fields rather than buying fertilizer and chemicals, and rotated crops to save the soil. He wasn't interested in a farm bigger than he could handle. He liked being self-sufficient–and staying out of debt.

Kohl, now 82, still farms with the help of his son, Steve. He doesn't keep a team anymore, but the old horse-drawn planter is still in the barn.

Dick Kohl

Dick Kohl worked with many teams over the years. "If I got a team broke good, then I'd sell them and buy a pair of colts," he said. Kohl started breaking horses on his parents' farm when he was in third grade. Nellie and Queen (pictured on previous page) were Kohl's last team of field horses. He sold them in 1970 and finally retired his horse-drawn planter. Of all the horses he farmed with through the years, Kohl can't decide which he loved most.

"They were all my favorite," he said.

Photos by Millie K. Frese

Horses in Battle

This Keystone stereoview from World War I shows English cavalry horses, many of which came from Iowa. The description behind the card says "these patient animals that go forth to their death and serve so loyally their masters whose fate is as uncertain as their own."

Ancient cultures discovered the advantages of using horses in warfare. Horses could move armies into position faster than foot soldiers, and troops on galloping horses could attack opponents with greater speed. Evolving cavalry tactics involved swift flanking movements, head-on charges, and the use of new kinds of weapons designed for mounted soldiers. During and after World War I, tanks and jeeps replaced horses on battlefields. Their military use shifted to parades and other ceremonial activities.

Plains Indians developed fighting skills on horseback during wars against rival tribes. Their equestrian skills proved to U.S. soldiers in the 19th century that Indians ranked among the world's best cavalry.

Weapons makers and military strategists realized the need to make guns matching the needs of mounted soldiers. Those making a swift charge on horseback needed weapons capable of firing in rapid succession. Cavalry troops also needed to reload their weapons in good time without dismounting. Weapons such as the Colt revolver and short, lightweight carbines fit the needs of **dragoons**, Texas Rangers, Civil War cavalry troops, and soldiers on horseback fighting in the Spanish-American War and World War I.

During the Civil War, Iowa units fought in most of the western theater's major battles including those in Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and the Carolinas. Cavalry units played key roles during the Civil War, scouting, picketing, and protecting the flanks of the infantry.

Confederate soldiers initially had an advantage in cavalry operations because more of them were experienced equestrians who used their horses for racing and hunting. They even brought their own horses to the battlefield. Union cavalry troops, who considered horses work animals, had less riding experience.

The 113th Cavalry Regiment, Iowa National Guard, was organized after World War I, a reconstituted unit from the First Iowa Cavalry of Civil War days. Here, a member of the 113th Cavalry takes a break from maneuvers at Camp Bowie in Texas.

Photo Courtesy Iowa Goldstar Museum, Camp Dodge

dra•goon *n-* heavily armed mounted soldier; cavalryman

Iowa State University

A **draft** horse is one bred especially for hard work.

Iowa State College's (now Iowa State University) Farm Department developed draft horse breeds. The department operated purebred teaching herds, and students cared for assigned animals. To promote **draft** breeding, Iowa State College cooperated with breed associations by hosting international livestock shows in Ames.

The 4-H program, headquartered at Iowa State College, included horse activities. This undated image shows judges and children inspecting draft horses. 4-H began in 1906 and is still going strong. Turn the page to meet a 4-H member from today!

American Prince, a grand champion Clydesdale gelding, was the pride of Iowa State College's teaching herd in the early 1900s. His tail is tied up to show his powerful hindquarters. Tail ties also prevented long horse tails from getting caught in a pulling team's harness or other equipment. Since horses need their tails to swat away pesky insects, fly nets were worn to do that job for horses whose tails were tied (see nets on pages 4 and 7).

Photo Courtesy ISU Library/University Archives

Iowa State College opened one of the country's first public veterinary schools in 1879. It was formed primarily to treat horses. This 1937 veterinary class photo shows Dr. George Fowler (far left), ISC's head horse surgeon, performing surgery.

Photo Courtesy ISU Library/University Archives

Meet Emily Cummins: An Iowa Kid Who Loves Horses!

My name is Emily Cummins and I'm 12 years old. I live on a farm outside Collins, Iowa. I have a horse whose registered name is Striker Ace, but I call him Striker. He is a **Quarter Horse**. I also have a miniature donkey named Skippy. My mom and I love horses. She has a Quarter Horse named Beau. We also have dogs, cats and goats on our farm.

I show Striker in 4-H and open shows. I have won various awards with him in Junior Western Showmanship, Novice Walk-Trot, Novice Pleasure, Junior Western Pleasure and Horsemanship. Striker and I have been in a drill team on horseback which is really fun because you ride with about 20 other kids in different patterns to music. We participated in team penning last summer. In team penning, a group of three horses and riders try to put three or more calves in a pen in the shortest time possible.

I also participate in hippology and horse judging contests. Hippology is the study of the horse or equine. In contests, you identify different horse equipment, take a written test, judge two classes of horses and solve a team problem in a certain amount of time. I was fourth in the state contest two years in a row. For horse judging contests, you judge classes of horses and give reasons for your choices.

In the summer, Striker and I go to one or two shows each month. In the fall and spring, we go to riding clinics and lessons. In the summer I spend around three hours with him every day. I try to ride Striker every day in the summer, and at least once a week through winter. Feeding and

Quarter Horse: a horse bred for both speed in the quarter-mile race and cow sense on the open range.

take riding lessons on a stable horse. If you can own a horse but don't live on a farm, you can board your horse at a stable. This means you own your horse but pay a stable to feed it and keep it in a pasture or stall. You still exercise your own horse.

cleaning out his stall only takes about 45 minutes a day in the winter, maybe less in the summer.

I've had my donkey Skippy since I was three. He is more like a pet dog to me. He always manages to escape from the pasture into our yard. I don't really do much with him anymore except for feed and pet him. I can't really ride him now, but I can jump on him and he runs around. When I was smaller, I rode him in a parade and he pulled a small cart, too. He has also been in nativity scenes and a 4-H petting zoo.

There is more to horses than just feeding and exercising them. You also have to build them fences and barns, too. We are always putting up more fence, just ask my dad!

You don't have to own a horse and live on a farm to enjoy horses. You can lease a horse or

I've been involved in the 4-H horse project for four years now. Whether you're just starting out or have had a horse for a long time, you know that horses are an expensive but great hobby. Some people may make it sound like a huge responsibility, but if you love horses like I do, it's worth it.

–by Emily Cummins

Photos Courtesy of the Author

If I had a horse...

I would like to have a horse because they are fun to ride. They run faster than I could peddle a bike.

I would like to have a horse because my friends would be envious. I could charge people to ride it. Horses are exotic creatures and it would be fun to have one.

Even though I want a horse, I wouldn't know where to keep it because I don't have as much space outside as somebody that lives in the country. I would probably feed it carrots and whatever else you feed horses.

-Daren Durell

Some horses are gentle and easy to get around on. I could ride a horse out in the pasture while Grandma drives the tractor. If there was ever an emergency, I could ride for help. My horse would be tall and fast. It would have to get along with my cat, Hercules.

-Kristina Parmer

I would like a horse so that I could ride it whenever I want. I wouldn't have to buy gas, just grain. I wouldn't get stuck very often and I could go anywhere. I could help my uncle on a cattle drive. I would like to have a big Quarter Horse so I could rope things. I would join 4-H and get some cows to put in and work with my horse. I would give them all the hay they want and keep them in a barn when it got cold.

-Clint Higdon

-By fifth graders in Gary Coffelt's class at Central Decatur City Elementary School, Decatur City.

What is it about horses that

Since I live in the country, I think a horse would have plenty of space to roam. We could go for long walks. Whenever I got mad I could go racing with him. Feeling the breeze in my face might comfort me. I could talk to a horse and tell him my secrets. Most likely he won't repeat what I've said.

With a horse I could help my dad bring the cows in. He would like that-anything to help him with the work. I'm sure he could find many uses for my horse around the farm.

I would like to have a horse for pleasure riding. We could go out in the pasture and just relax. We could run, walk, or gallop. Having a horse would be a lot of fun. You get to take care of it and teach it cool tricks. You might be able to teach it to talk like Mr. Ed. I just hope my dog, Lady, won't get jealous because I would have a new friend.

-Cassie Norman

I want to have a horse because I could ride it with my friends. I would enter it in a show. If I won, I will win money or other things. I could ride it in a parade to take her to the fair. I could ride her on the trail. If the school would let me I will bring her to school. When she gets sick I will take her to the vet. I would name her Feather. We will be best friends. The two of us could go in the fields, around the ponds, in the puddles, down the street, up the hills and never be tired.

-Vanessa Easton

I would like to have my very own horse so I could go fishing with it, ride it to the pool, baseball field and football field. I would have to move because it would eat the grass.

During the winter it could pull me on the sled up and down the hills around my house.

-Jared Parsons

I would like to have a horse so I could ride him everywhere I wanted to go. I could take him to the farm and race faster than lightning through the pastures. Then I would have a new friend for whenever the television gets boring. I could also use him whenever my grandpa is working with the cows. He would be better than a pickup or four wheeler because he could turn a lot faster and sharper.

-Kyle Norman

makes every kid want one?

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Horsin' Around

by Lin Ly

What are you reading, Rosie?
A book on horse phrases. Do you know what "horse-feathers" means?
Horsefeathers! That's nonsense. Horses don't have feathers!
That's exactly right! Horsefeathers means nonsense.
Of course it does, I knew it all along.
My fine-feathered friend, you've got horse sense.
I can't have horse sense just like a horse can't have feathers!
Oh.
Goldie, horse sense means common sense.

Test your horse sense by matching the following horse terms with their meanings. **Good luck!**

1. eat a horse **2.** horse editor **3.** straight from the horse's mouth **4.** hold your horses **5.** horse latitudes **6.** horse around **7.** on one's high horse **8.** beat a dead horse **9.** set the cart before the horse

☐ To be patient. It probably originated from horse racing more than 160 years ago. Amateur drivers often started their horses before the race began. By the 1840s, the phrase applied to everyone in general.

☐ Defines a region of calm air 30 degrees north and south of the equator. It may be so named because sailing ships carrying horses to America had to throw horses overboard to take advantage of the slightest breeze.

☐ To be very hungry.

☐ Describes an arrogant or superior person. It originated in the 14th century when high-ranking people rode tall horses. It gained its present usage around 1800.

☐ An editor who works with unimportant copy.

☐ To pursue a hopeless issue or something of no present value.

☐ Spend time playfully.

☐ Horsemen estimate a horse's age from its teeth, getting the information from the best possible source –the horse itself. Horse racing used the expression around 1830 and in the early 1900s, it became everyday speech.

☐ To reverse the order of things. The ancient Greeks and Romans had similar expressions. It first appeared in English in 1279 as setting "the plow before the oxen."

Buffalo Bill Cody

Of Wild West fame, William F. Cody was born near Le Claire, Iowa in 1846. A skilled rider, Cody was involved in a number of horse escapades. At 14, he was a messenger for the Pony Express which started in 1860. The Pony Express ran 2,000 miles from St. Joseph, Mo., to Sacramento, Calif. About every 15 miles, stations were built so riders could exchange tired horses for fresh ones and meet the next rider. However relief riders and horses weren't always available. Cody once rode more than 320 miles in 21 hours and 40 minutes. He used 21 horses. It was the third longest Pony Express ride. The Pony Express shut down in 1861 when it couldn't compete with the faster telegraph line between New York and San Francisco.

Cody earned the name "Buffalo Bill" in the late 1860s for his buffalo-hunting skills. Between 1867-1868, he killed 4, 280 buffaloes. In one successful hunt, he credited his horse Brigham.

"As soon as one buffalo would fall, Brigham would take me so close to the next, that I could almost touch it with my gun," Cody said. "In this manner, I killed 11 buffaloes with 12 shots."

SHSI (Iowa City)

In 1947, a parade in Davenport featured these Buffalo Bill impersonators.

by Sarah Macht

In the boxes on the right, cross out the following:

1. Five breeds of horses
2. Three things horses eat
3. Five colors of horses
4. Four gaits of horses
5. Three breeds of ponies
6. Five pieces of tack (horse gear)

bay	saddle	some	oats	Arabian
bit	Welsh	walk	chestnut	sense
horse	Appaloosa	bridle	canter	Pony of the Americas
Shetland	hay	grey	Thoroughbred	you'll
cinch or girth	Quarter Horse	trot	halter	buckskin
gallop	Palomino	have	Morgan	grass

Now, rearrange the words that are left to find out what will happen when you finish this puzzle:

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ !

Answer: You'll have some horse sense.

Horses and Fun—
A Winning Combination!

Before machines replaced horses on Iowa roads and farms, horses were used more for work than for recreation. Even after cars and tractors became popular, the bond between horses and humans remained. A few enterprising people recognized that Iowans loved horses **almost** as much as they loved fun. That made history in the towns of Sidney and Independence.

The Sidney Rodeo

One of the biggest and best rodeos in the country is held annually in the small town of Sidney, Iowa. The Sidney rodeo features bronco riding, steer wrestling, bull riding, barrel racing, and calf roping. The rodeo began in 1923, when brothers Henry and Earl Tackett decided to liven up an Old Soldiers' Reunion. They rounded up "bad" horses from the area and performed on them for the crowd. The event was a hit, and within three years, the Sidney show was a major attraction.

Donna Jo Briley Glenn was 18 years old when she was crowned the 20th queen for the Sidney rodeo in 1959.

"It was the biggest thrill of my life," Glenn said. The honor included many public appearances to promote the rodeo, including some TV spots with Dale Robertson, star of the show *Tales of Wells Fargo*.

Being chosen queen was special to Glenn for another reason. During the rodeo, Glenn rode a horse name Pardner–"Pard" for short. Pard had been broken to ride many years earlier by Glenn's father, Harold Briley, who died when she was 4 years old. Briley was aboard the USS Indianapolis when a Japanese submarine torpedoed and sank it during World War II, killing 880 men.

Glenn's saddle also held special meaning for her. The saddle had first belonged to Henry Tackett,

1959 Sidney Rodeo Queen Donna Jo Briley and Pardner

Photo Courtesy: Donna Jo Briley Glenn

one of the original Sidney cowboys. Tackett rode in the saddle in the very first Sidney rodeo, and Briley purchased the saddle from him in the 1930s. "The saddle was uncomfortable," Glenn recalled. "But it was my dad's."

Axtell, Allerton, and Rush Park

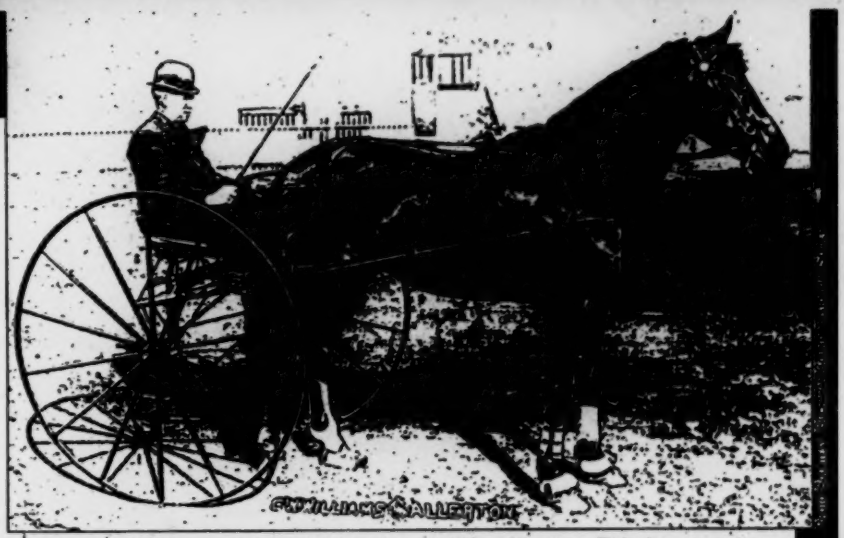
Eleven-year-old Charles Williams and his family left New York and settled on a farm near Jessup after the Civil War. As a young man, Williams developed a dairy business and became interested in harness racing. He trained two of his horses, named Allerton and Axtell, and entered them in trotting competitions. In 1888, Williams tried to sell Axtell for $300 but had no takers. Soon after, Axtell set many records for speed and Williams was able to sell him — for $105,000!

With the money from Axtell's sale, Williams bought land and built a race track in Independence, Iowa. This track, called Rush Park, attracted world class race horses from all over the country. Williams' horse Allerton was crowned "stallion champion of the world" in 1891 with a record setting time set on the Rush Park track. The successes of Allerton and Axtell brought fame, recognition and wealth to Charles Williams. Rush Park was referred to as "the Lexington of the North."

Rush Park's popularity declined rapidly after the financial panic of 1893. But memories of Axtell and Allerton lived on through the many fine racers and trotters that they sired after their own spectacular racing careers ended.

Horse racing and rodeo are still very popular in Iowa. Their continued success is a tribute to the people who recognized that horses could be more than a means of transportation – they could also be fun!

–by Jan Wolbers



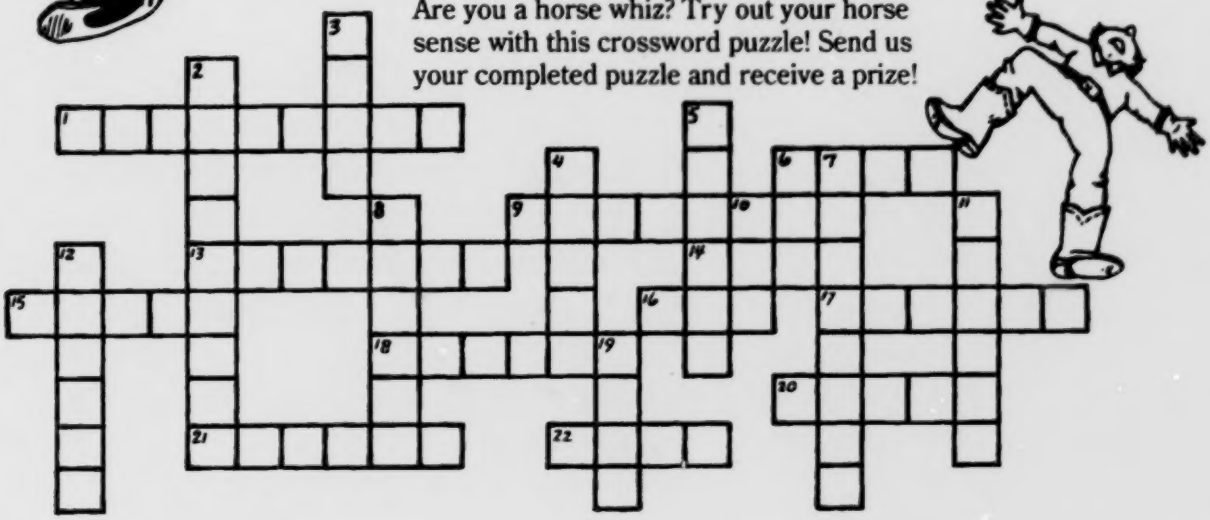
Charles Williams trots with his prize stallion; Allerton. This horse set a trotting record for stallions of 2:09 1/2 in a mile at Rush Park's unique kite-shaped track. With Allerton's fame came a great demand for him to sire mares, earning thousands of dollars in stud fees for Williams.

Trick riding in Stanwood, around 1950. This event requires well-trained, disciplined horses.

SHSI (Iowa City)

Horse Quiz

Are you a horse whiz? Try out your horse sense with this crossword puzzle! Send us your completed puzzle and receive a prize!



ACROSS:

1. A metal-toothed comb used to groom horses.
6. A pair of horses working in tandem.
9. A white horse with blue eyes.
13. Small, sturdy wild horse.
14. A horse uses its mane and _____ to remove flies from its body.
15. A _____ horse is large and strong, bred for pulling or plowing.
16. Short for an animal doctor.
17. A vicious, untrainable horse.
18. Rope used to lead a horse.
20. An irregularly marked horse.
21. A _____ stable is where horses are boarded and tended for a fee.
22. A unit of measure, about four inches, used to find the height of a horse.

DOWN:

2. A horse with a long, bushy tail.
3. Jogging gait of a horse.
4. A broad, white streak on a horse's face that runs between the eyes to the muzzle.
5. A slow, easy gallop.
7. Tan or cream-colored horse with white mane and tail.
8. A horse's sweat.
10. Seeds of this cereal plant are used as food for horses.
11. The fastest gait of a horse.
12. A wild or untrained horse.
19. Describes a reddish-brown horse sprinkled with gray or white.

21

Selling a "Sure Cure"

–by Diane Nelson

NO MORE BLIND HORSES: For Specific Ophthalmia, Moon Blindness and Other Sore Eyes, BARRY CO., Iowa City, Iowa, Have a Sure Cure

Advertising made it possible to sell horse care products far beyond a company's home community. This ad, for example, brought mail from all over the United States. One letter came from Gadsden, Alabama and prompted this reply on July 22, 1903:

> It is our opinion that your mare has Periodic Ophthalmia and we believe that it would pay you to try our remedy especially on the eye that was last to go blind. The price of the remedy is very small compared to the value of a good horse and as blind horses are not worth much it would seem that it would be to your interest to give it a trial. We have affected some wonderful cures with cases just like yours...

Other people wrote about using the product:

> March 31, 1903
> My family driving horse got Specific Ophthalmia or Moon Blindness in the fall of 1901, and during the winter one of his eyes became entirely blind. The other eye continued in a very infectious condition at intervals until I was satisfied that the next attack would destroy it too. However, prior to this expected attack I learned of the remedy sold by the Barry Company and secured some of their medicine...I used this remedy and it cured the eye perfectly in a very short time...

Some companies that used this kind of advertising became hugely successful. Their products are still available. Others quietly disappeared, leaving only a few letters and advertising samples.

We don't know what happened to the Barry Company, but we do know that people are still looking for a "sure cure" for moon blindness. The painful eye inflammation that abruptly appears, disappears and reappears is thought to be triggered by allergic reactions. It may be caused by a specific type of bacteria or by a parasite. New drugs are available to treat the infections, but blindness can still result.

Did You Know?

Alexander the Great

Prince Alexander of Macedonia used a little horse sense to win his great horse, Bucephalus, which means Ox-head. His father, King Philip, agreed to let Alexander have the horse if he could ride it. Although the royal trainer had judged Bucephalus as too vicious, Alexander noticed that a shadow frightened the horse. By turning Bucephalus away from the shadow, Alexander was able to control the horse

Together Alexander and Bucephalus conquered many lands. Bucephalus died in action in 326 B.C. The pair had just conquered a part of India which Alexander then named Bucephala, after his horse. Alexander the Great died three years later.

The Trojan Horse

This legend came from Homer's great poem, the *Iliad*. For 10 years, the city of Troy had been under attack by the Greeks. The Trojans stood strong against these attacks. Finally around 1240 B.C., the Greeks came up with a plan. They built a huge wooden horse and hid their best warriors inside. They left the horse outside Troy's city walls in the dead of night.

The next morning, just as the Greeks had hoped, the Trojans pulled the horse into their city. In the middle of the night, the hidden Greek warriors sneaked out and set fire to the city. The rest of the Greek army swarmed in and ended the decade-long war in minutes.

–by Lin Ly

History Mystery!

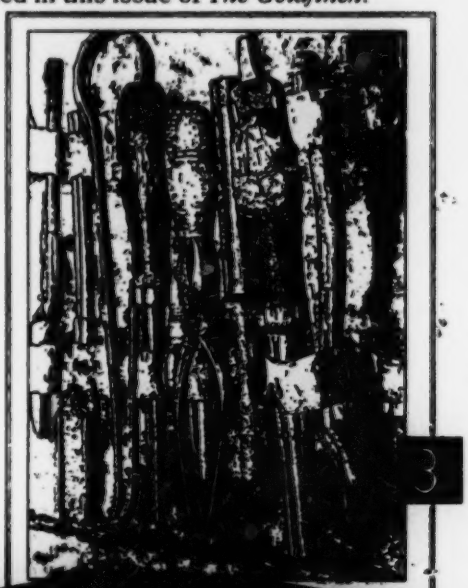
The objects pictured here are on display in the "Hay Days: The Horse in Iowa History" exhibit at the Iowa Historical Building in Des Moines. Read the clues and see if you can match each item with the term that answers the mystery question! Hint: Find additional clues in the stories included in this issue of *The Goldfinch*.

1

Horses were a symbol of status, wealth and prestige for American Indian tribes in this region in the early 1800s. Carvings and artwork often reflected the special places horses held in tribal society. This flute (used by young men during courting) and knife were crafted in the 1800s by members of an Indian nation living on a settlement near Tama. Who are they?

2

Blacksmiths who were experts at shoeing horses could make all sorts of special shoes to correct foot and gait problems in horses. What were these blacksmiths called?



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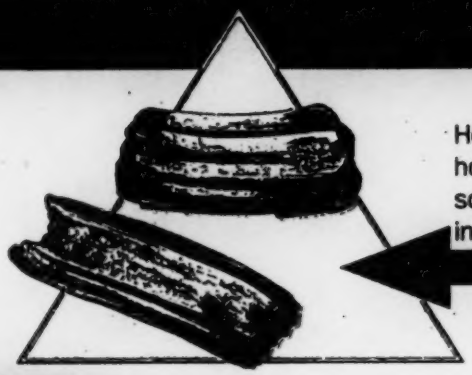

Horse traders examined the growth and wear of a horse's teeth to determine its age. But it took a scientist to date these fossilized horse teeth found in Iowa. What era do these teeth represent?

4

Currycomb

Farriers

Mesquakie

Veterinarian

Pleistocene

Large Intestine

5

This teaching specimen is used by Iowa State University's veterinary college. One of the most painful and life-threatening problems for horses involves obstructions of this organ. What is it? (By the way–it would take a box 36" square and 28" tall to hold this part of a horse's digestive tract!)

6

Horses must be groomed daily for good health. A healthy horse has a sleek coat, pliable skin, alert eyes and an enthusiastic appetite. This tool removes dirt and disease-carrying insects from horse hair. What is it?

24

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Haying with Old Bolliver

by Millie Frese

I heard the heavy thud of Uncle Henry's footsteps as he trudged across the kitchen to light a fire in Aunt Helen's stove. Dawn glowed in the eastern sky but it was still mostly dark. I rolled over, stretched lazily and drifted back to sleep. A beautiful chestnut mare with its mane and tail streaming in the breeze pranced across the meadow of my dreams.

Clattering skillets on the iron stove and a jumble of voices coming from the kitchen snapped me awake. I pulled a light cotton dress over my head and stuffed my nightgown under the pillow, quickly smoothing the covers. *Today Aunt Helen will be too busy cooking for the haying crew to check on the tidiness of my room,* I thought. I just hope she remembers that this year I'm helping outside instead of in the kitchen!

Grandpa and Uncle Henry were arguing when I entered the kitchen.

"It won't be long before farmers around here do all their field work with tractors," Uncle Henry stated. Uncle Henry called it progress. Cars, tractors, and the gasoline engines that powered them fascinated him.

But Grandpa loved horses. "Machines will never take the place of horses," Grandpa said. He couldn't imagine life on a farm without them.

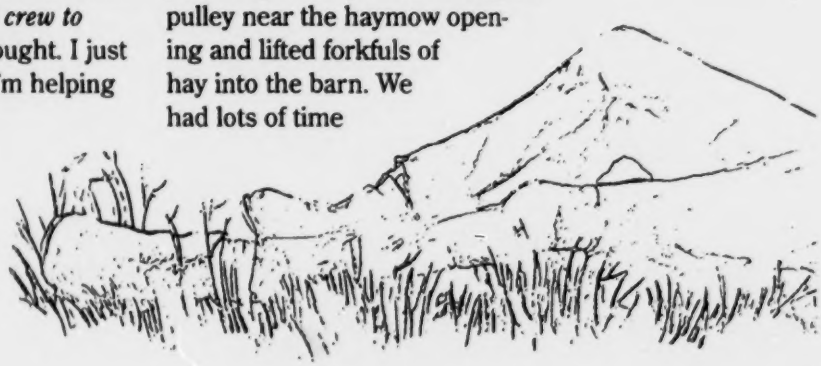
Aunt Helen set platters heaped with crispy bacon and steaming scrambled eggs on the table. Icing from a plate of warm cinnamon rolls dripped over the plate's edge leaving a sticky puddle on the kitchen table as we ate.

I ran to keep up with Uncle Henry's and Grandpa's long strides on our way to the barn after breakfast to hitch up the horses for the day's work.

"Today Carolyn's in charge of Old Bolliver," Grandpa announced.

"In charge?" Uncle Henry laughed. "No one tells Bolliver what to do! He's got a streak of mischief running through him to match the jagged white blaze on his face!"

I studied Bolliver's big, brown eyes as Grandpa coaxed the bit into his mouth and fastened the bridle in place. Our job—Bolliver's and mine—was to pull a rope that passed through a pulley near the haymow opening and lifted forkfuls of hay into the barn. We had lots of time



between wagon loads while Grandpa, Uncle Henry, and the extra hands they'd hired went into the field for more.

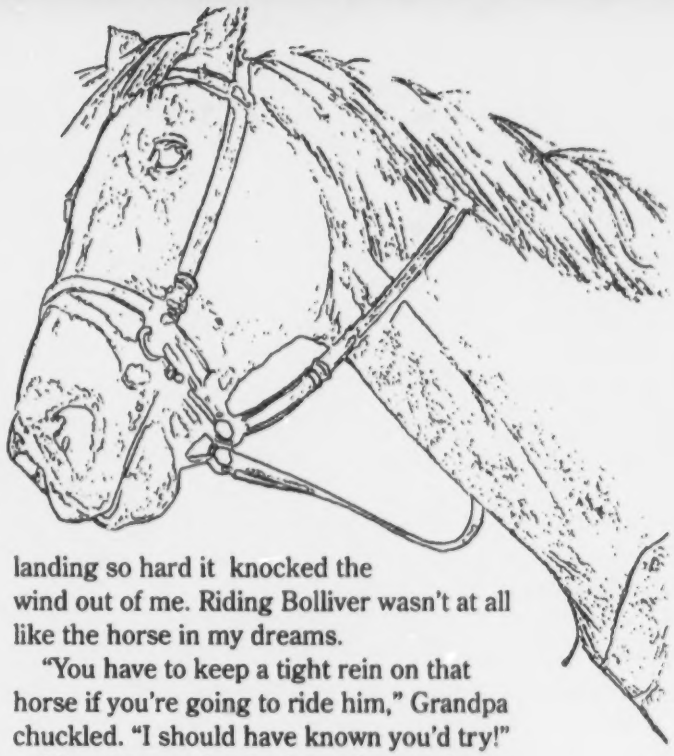
I tied Bolliver to the fence in a shady spot where he stood shooing flies as he tossed his head and swished his tail while we waited. I explored the barn and found where one of the cats hid her kittens behind the corn planter. But they were wild and ran away when I came near.

Old Bolliver is gentler than a kitten, I thought as I climbed to the top of a fence post and stroked his mane. Gathering the reins in my hand, I straddled his bare back. It wouldn't hurt to ride him a little. It seemed like forever since we'd had anything to do.

I held the reins loosely, letting Bolliver choose his gait. He walked, sniffed the midmorning breeze, gave a little whinny then began to gallop. He was a big horse who now seemed larger than life as the ground thundered away beneath us. We were coming up fast on the haying crew and I couldn't get Bolliver to slow down.

Then I heard Grandpa's booming voice. "WHOA, BOLLIVER!"

Bolliver stopped right in front of Grandpa and dropped his head. I flew off,



landing so hard it knocked the wind out of me. Riding Bolliver wasn't at all like the horse in my dreams.

"You have to keep a tight rein on that horse if you're going to ride him," Grandpa chuckled. "I should have known you'd try!"

My pride was bruised, but I wasn't hurt.

"Please don't tell Aunt Helen," I begged. "She'll keep me working inside for sure if you do!"

"We'll keep this between you and me and Bolliver," he said. Bolliver, who was chewing on a mouthful of sweet clover, snorted as though he understood every word Grandpa said.

I sat on top of the mound of hay in Grandpa's wagon with Bolliver trailing along behind as we took the next load to the barn.

"Grandpa, why do you like horses so much?" I asked.

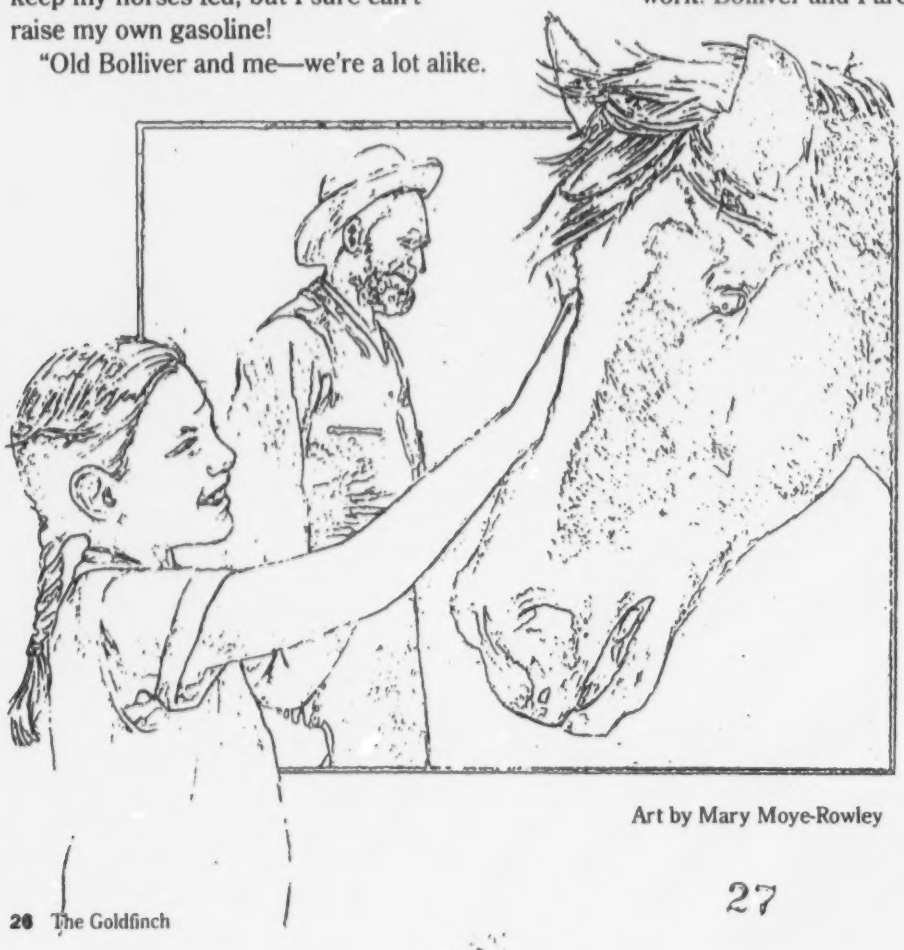
"They're like loyal friends," he replied. "Horses have been part of

my life as long as I can remember. It takes time and patience to become friends with a horse—"

"I know—I found that out the hard way!" I interrupted.

"But once you've earned each other's trust, you're friends for a lifetime. I can't imagine making friends with one of those newfangled tractors! And I can grow plenty of oats and hay to keep my horses fed, but I sure can't raise my own gasoline!

"Old Bolliver and me—we're a lot alike. We both have a lot invested in this place," Grandpa continued. "He is the surviving member of a team I bought almost 20 years ago." When Bolliver's partner, Maude, died, Grandpa put him in charge of all the one-horse jobs around the farm. Other teams took over the heavy field work. "A few years after your grandma died, Henry and Helen moved in to take over most of the farm work. Bolliver and I are too old to run the place ourselves."



Art by Mary Moye-Rowley

We were all tired that evening, horses and humans alike. Before we went in for supper, we carefully groomed the horses and gave them fresh water and plenty of oats.

"You know what, Grandpa?" I asked as we brushed and fed Old Bolliver. "If I wasn't a girl, I'd sure want to be a horse."

"I know exactly what you mean," he replied.

Horses Set Amish Families Apart

by Lin Ly

An Amish farmer works the ground in Kalona in the 1970s.

SHSI (Iowa City) Jan Sholo in Joan Liffring-Zug Collection

When the Amish first settled in Iowa in 1846, they weren't the only ones using horses for farming and transportation. Today they are.

According to 1990 survey figures provided by the State Library of Iowa, there are more than 3500 Amish people in Iowa. They live in agricultural communities and are committed to a simple lifestyle centered around family and faith.

"It's their way of staying apart from the world," said Lois Gugel, archivist at the Mennonite Historical Society in Kalona, Iowa.

The Amish believe using horses on the farm and on the road helps keep family, church and community bonds strong. Using horses to plow fields and plant crops requires the help of many people, keeping family members together on the farm. Farming with tractors, however, requires fewer helpers, so the family is not together as much. Automobiles also make it easier for the Amish to leave their farms and communities.

The incorporation of modern technology varies across Amish communities. Congregations within Amish communities decide what mechanization, if any, may be allowed. According to Gugel, farmers who don't use tractors may have as many as 12 horses for field work and transportation. Farmers who use tractors may have three or four buggy horses.

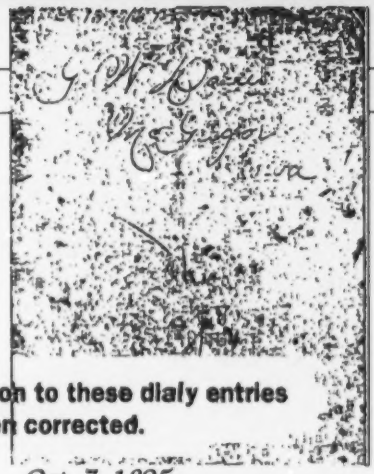
Horses used in field work are bigger than the ones used to pull buggies. Amish children often have their first experience working with horses in the field. By age 12, most children can drive a horse and buggy.

Farming is considered the ideal occupation in Amish communities. It allows entire communities to shun modern conveniences and keep their lives simple. Because most of the Amish in Iowa are involved with farming, each family in a community farms a small amount of land.

Amish who are not involved with farming may run businesses which support the community's farms, such as blacksmiths and harness and buggy shops. Other businesses bring in outside dollars from non-Amish customers, such as carpentry, bakeries and craft shops.

The tourism industry often advertises the Amish culture as "living history." The phrase both applies and doesn't apply to the Amish, Gugel said. The Amish continue to farm with horses much like they did many years ago. However, they have also embraced some conveniences that weren't available "back in the days of history," such as generators to run milk machines, indoor bathrooms and washing machines.

Dear Diary...



On March 21, 1895, 22-year-old G. Walter Davies left his family farm in McGregor, Iowa. He traveled by train to Madison County to try farming on his own. Horses were among Davies' first major purchases. He discovered that caring for horses was a major expense. Read Davies' diary to find out more about the cost of running a farm with horses.

Please note: We added some capitalization and punctuation to these daily entries to make them easier to read. Spelling errors have not been corrected.

April 15, 1895
Johnie plowed while Albert and I went over to Mr. Beaches to look at his horses and over to Hanleys. I bought Hanleys corn plow for $5 dollars.

April 18, 1895
I went with Albert to get my horses which I bought of Mrs. Bush for $90 in the forenoon. In the afternoon I helped Edd hich one of them up and took them up to Macksburg and bough a harness for $27.50.

April 20, 1895
Hitched up and harrowed corn stalks.

June 24, 1895
Payed for horse in pasture .60 total $2.10.

July 4, 1895
Payed Albert for horses in pasture 1 month $1.30.

Sept. 7, 1895
Got ready to start to the State fair with Fred Bonham and James Thomas. We left Eds' 3:30 P.M. Got to Winterset 7:30 P.M. Put up for the night in Coocks livery stable, put horses in barn 50 cts., a new lantern 50. We got our checks cashed. Jim Thomas an I slept in the wagon. Fred Bonham an John slept in the barn.

Sept. 9, 1895
We started at 7 A.M. and got to the fairground in East Des Moines 9:30 A.M. We put our horses in a feed yard and went back to town, car fair 5 cts.

Oct. 7, 1895
I dug pottatoes and went to Winterset to get vetenary. I bought horse blancket 1.50. Put my horses in barn.

Oct. 8, 1895
I chored around till horse doctor came. Paid him $4 dollars.

Oct. 10, 1895
We threshed for O.J. Scott. I till noon, Johnie all day. My horse was sick.

Oct. 11, 1895
My horse died. I went to Winterset with Ed.

Oct. 14, 1895
I took one of Ed horses and my own and went to Lorimor. Got my harness of Elkhart $23.75.

29

Be a diary detective!

by Lin Ly

Davies eventually returned to McGregor but not before marrying Elma Haymond of Winterset in 1898. His 1895 diary details the start of his Madison County experience. By recording his horse expenses, Davies shows that horses were necessary for farm work and transportation. Read Davies' diary again, then use your diary detective skills to answer the following questions!

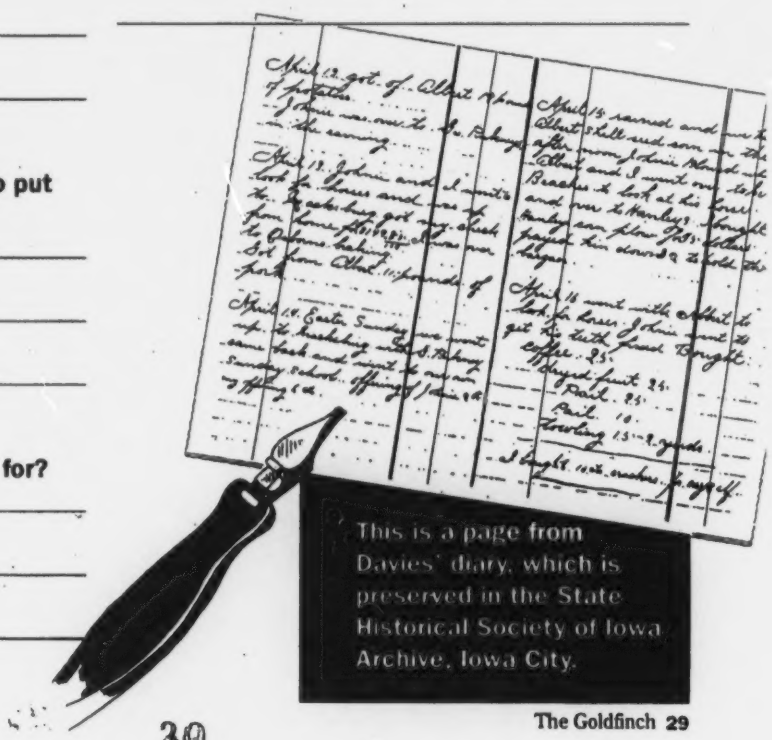
1. List the expenses in keeping horses. What was Davies' biggest expense?

2. Why do you think Davies had to pay to put his horses to pasture?

3. What chore did Davies use his horses for?

4. Why might a horse doctor be found in Winterset and not Macksburg or Lorimor?

5. Compare how Davies took care of his horses to how we take care of our cars today.



This is a page from Davies' diary, which is preserved in the State Historical Society of Iowa Archive, Iowa City.

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HISTORY MAKERS

Ride along as Iowa kids train in an Olympic sport!

A few days each week after school, Kirsten Carew, 8, stops by the Diamond W Stables in Iowa City. Kirsten's horse Fred boards there and together they train to compete in dressage, an Olympic sport.

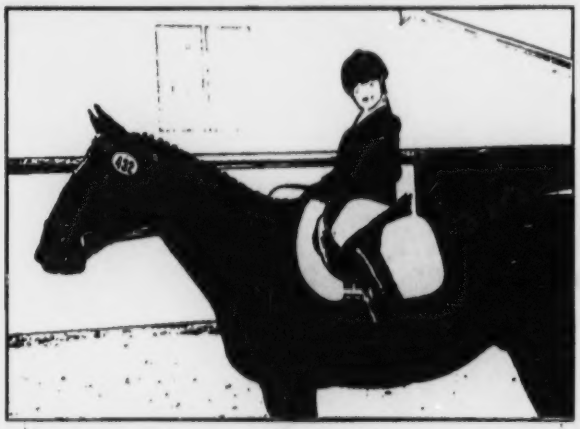
Dressage involves a series of maneuvers done by a horse and rider in a specific order. Some of these maneuvers mean changing directions suddenly, performing a pirouette (circle) or raising the horse's front legs slightly. The horse and rider are partners–just as in ballroom dancing or pairs figure skating. The dressage competitor urges the horse to perform by shifting positions slightly. Riders also use gentle spurs and sometimes a whip to direct the horse.

Elaine Reiter

Photo: Katherine House

If you've seen dancing circus horses or white Lipizzan stallions perform, you've seen dressage. Elaine Reiter, 14, a dressage competitor, said, "We consider it an art–not just riding."

Dressage originated in Europe several centuries ago when horses had to be controlled while soldiers fought. Kings and queens enjoyed watching contests in which the horses and riders performed certain maneuvers. Dressage did not become popular in the United States until earlier this century.



Kirsten and Fred after winning a competition on July 19, 1997.

Photo Courtesy: Kirsten Carew

Dressage is a French word meaning training (pronunciation help: *dressage* rhymes with *massage!*). Like other athletes, dressage riders practice long hours. Horses learn about dressage movements from special trainers. Then the riders and horses take lessons together. Kirsten started competing in dressage last year. She rides about 30 minutes several times each week. Every two weeks, she receives a one-hour lesson. Many other dressage riders at Diamond W are teenagers who practice longer hours.

Kirsten also helps take care of her horse. "I brush [Fred] a lot," she said. "I give [him] a bath and shower [him] off with a sponge. I put shampoo on him and condition him and wash his face and nose." Sometimes she cleans out his stall, her least favorite chore, and scrubs his water bucket.

Competitions take place outside on summer

by Katherine House

weekends. It's often very hot, and riders get wet when it rains. Competitors wear special outfits. "I have some breeches and a black vest and white shirt and a stock tie," said Kirsten. She also wears a black hat.

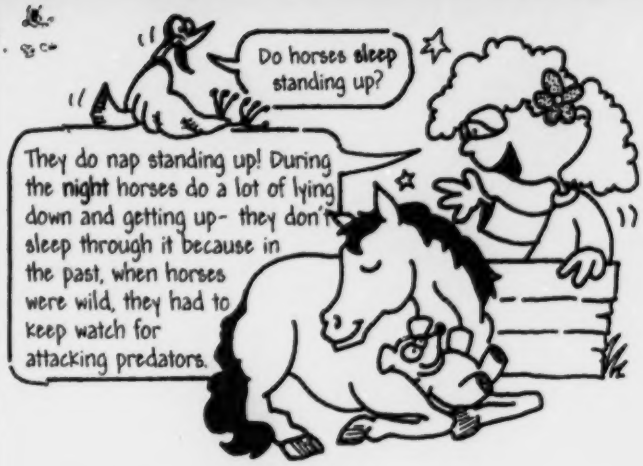
One judge scores competitors on each maneuver on a scale of one to ten. Riders compete in different classes depending on the experience of both horse and rider. All competitors 21 and under are judged against one another. An announcer calls out the order of the maneuvers.

Competitions are tough. The hardest part is "trying to listen and concentrate to get [Fred] going," said Kirsten. Last year, she won three blue ribbons and three trophies. Elaine describes dressage as "an interesting, intriguing sport. With figure skating, you train yourself. In dressage, you have two minds to deal with."

Ashley Dains

Photo: Katherine House

The best part of competing is "traveling and meeting new people," said Ashley Dains, 13, another competitor. Elaine sums it up this way: "I tend to be a perfectionist. I like the challenge of dressage. It gives me a release–something to look forward to each day. I have a very strong bond to my horse."


Do horses sleep standing up?
They do nap standing up! During the night horses do a lot of lying down and getting up- they don't sleep through it because in the past, when horses were wild, they had to keep watch for attacking predators.

Did You Know?

Remember how the horse changed the way people lived, worked, fought and played? To have a horse was good fortune. Likewise the horseshoe came to symbolize good luck and protection. In early centuries, the horseshoe seemed to have magical qualities because it didn't cause horses pain. Blacksmiths often used seven nails to fasten the shoe. Seven was a lucky number. Even more lucky was the fact that the horseshoe was made of iron. Iron was believed to repel evil spirits. The horseshoe's shape was also considered lucky. The "U" shape resembled a pair of horns which was a protective sign often mounted on buildings.

Some countries distinguish between the U-shaped shoe and the inverted horseshoe (an upside-down horseshoe). The U-shaped horseshoe brought good luck–some people believed turning it upside-down would spill out the luck. For others, the inverted shoe symbolized protection.

–Lin Ly

We were all talking about this new-fangled thing they called the automobile. Great joke. Everybody knew no silly machine could ever take the place of the horse, but those engines were fascinating. The internal combustion engine was one of the greatest inventions of man. Who could imagine what the world would be like without horses? There'd never been such a time. Horses did so many jobs, you couldn't imagine being without them. Everything that needed moving was moved by horses, except for a few ox teams, but so few there was no comparison. Everybody depended on horses. People walked to spare a horse for heavy work or because they couldn't afford a horse. They had been with us from the beginning of memory. This was a way of life we never dreamed would change, it would go on like a river, forever.

–Lee Daniels, ca. 1900

from *Tales of an Old Horse Trader* by Leroy Judson Daniels. University of Iowa Press: 1987

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